



Hilmar County Water District

8319 Lander Avenue
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(209) 632-3522

March 13, 2020

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Hilmar County Water District (HCWD) is actively monitoring the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We, like everyone else, are navigating this very fluid and ever-changing situation to the best of our abilities and will continue to provide the essential services our customers rely on.

Hilmar County Water District is following the current guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Governor's Office, and the Merced County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) to ensure we are taking the appropriate actions to protect our customers, employees and our community.

The following statement was released by the EPA on Wednesday:

*"There is no higher priority for EPA than protecting the health and safety of Americans. EPA is providing this important information about COVID-19 as it relates to drinking water and wastewater to provide clarity to the public. **The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low.** Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual."*

They continued:

"The EPA has established regulations with treatment requirements for public water systems that prevent waterborne pathogens such as viruses from contaminating drinking water and wastewater. COVID-19 is a type of virus that is particularly susceptible to disinfection and standard treatment and disinfectant processes are expected to be effective."

Our water system is continuously monitored by state and federal regulations. We strive to, and do successfully meet those standards every day and we will continue to do so in these uncertain times. In addition, HCWD is taking the following precautionary measures:

- District personnel will limit travel to events, meetings, conferences and gatherings when they are not considered "essential" to our operation.
- We will make every effort to adhere to the guidance in Executive Order N-25-20, signed by Governor Gavin Newsome on March 12th, 2020, specifically as it relates to the Brown Act and holding public meetings.
- We will exercise "social distancing" measures, when possible, during normal working conditions.

We are aware that this situation is constantly developing and will continue to evolve for the foreseeable future. We will update you on changes and any new information as it becomes available. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact our office at (209) 632-3522.

Taking caution and adhering to the guidance of medical professionals and health agencies is something each one of us can do to slow the spread of COVID-19. Hilmar County Water District appreciates the patience and understanding of everyone during these times. I can assure you that our priority will always be the residents and businesses we serve.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Curtis Jorritsma". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Curtis Jorritsma
District Manager
Hilmar County Water District